

SARAH JORDAN.

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JUNE 6, 1898.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

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Mr. WARNER, from the Committee on Invalid Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany S. 4399.]

The Committee on Invalid Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (S. 4399) granting a pension to Sarah Jordan, have examined the same and the evidence relating thereto and respectfully report:

This bill proposes to pension at the rate of \$12 per month Sarah Jordan, of Plainfield, N. H.

The Senate report states the facts, and is as follows:

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (S. 4399) granting a pension to Sarah Jordan, have examined the same, and report:

The facts in this case are clearly set forth in the petition of the claimant. It appears that she was married in 1849 to Horace Jordan, who enlisted November 28, 1861, as private in Company G, Sixth Regiment New Hampshire Volunteer Infantry. In April, 1863, he drew his pay and forwarded to claimant from Lexington, Ky., \$25. He then disappeared and is classed as a deserter, but it was generally believed that he was killed in the city.

Assuming that her husband was dead, and being told that after three years' absence had terminated she had a legal right to marry again, and not having heard from her husband for over three years, she married in June, 1866. Benjamin Jordan was in the Army from September, 1864, to June 15, 1865, at which time he was discharged. Benjamin Jordan was granted a pension, which he drew until the time of his death, which occurred June 11, 1895. Claimant then applied for pension, which was denied on the ground that, failing to prove the death of her first husband, she was illegally married to Benjamin Jordan.

Claimant's petition is as follows:

*To the honorable the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled:*

Your petitioner, Sarah Jordan, whose post-office address is Plainfield, in the county of Sullivan and State of New Hampshire, respectfully represents that she was married to Horace Jordan in October, 1849, at Hartland, Vt.; that she lived with him as his wife; that said Horace Jordan enlisted October 2, 1861, and was mustered into the United States service November 28, 1861, as private in Company G, Sixth Regiment New Hampshire Volunteer Infantry; that said Horace Jordan drew his pay at Lexington, Ky., in April, 1863, and forwarded me \$25 of said pay, since which time I have never seen or heard from said Horace Jordan. June 11, 1866, I married Benjamin Jordan, supposing I had legal right so to do, not having heard

from my first husband for over three years. Benjamin Jordan enlisted September 1, 1864, in Company H, First Regiment New Hampshire Heavy Artillery, and was discharged June 15, 1865. He drew a pension until the time of his death, June 11, 1895, and upon my applying for a pension was answered that, not being able to prove the death of my first husband, my second marriage was not legal and that my first husband was reported as a deserter, and therefore I was not entitled to a pension on his service. I am 68 years of age, unable to work, and dependent upon help by the charity of the town for my support, and humbly petition your honorable bodies to pass a special act whereby I may receive the aid from the Government which I think belongs to me.

SARAH JORDAN.

Witnessed by—

ARVIN S. BARTHOLOMEW.

WILLIAM H. SISSON.

DECEMBER 4, 1897.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, *County of Sullivan*:

Personally appeared Sarah Jordan and made oath to the above statement.

Before me,

[SEAL.]

WILLIAM H. SISSON, *Notary Public*.

The following affidavits are of interest in the case:

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, *County of Sullivan*, ss:

In the matter of Sarah Jordan.

On this 4th day of December, A. D. 1897, personally appeared before me, a notary public in and for the aforesaid county, duly authorized to administer oaths, Norman C. Williams, aged 54 years, a resident of Plainfield, in the county of Sullivan and State of New Hampshire, whose post-office address is Plainfield, N. H., well known to be reputable and entitled to credit, and who, being duly sworn, declared in relation to aforesaid case as follows:

Have known Sarah Jordan ever since I can remember, and have always lived as neighbor to her; know that she lived with Horace Jordan as his wife at time of enlistment of said Horace Jordan; know that in 1863 reports were received that Horace Jordan was missing; that she did not marry again until, in 1866, she married Benjamin Jordan, and that she lived with said Benjamin Jordan as his wife from 1866 until the death of said Benjamin Jordan in June, 1895; know that she is aged, infirm, and needy, and that she has been helped by the county of Sullivan.

I further declare that I have no interest in said case and am not concerned in its prosecution.

NORMAN C. WILLIAMS.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, *County of Sullivan*, ss:

Sworn to and subscribed before me this day by the above-named affiant; and I certify that I read said affidavit to said affiant and acquainted him with its contents before he executed the same; that said affiant is personally known to me, and that he is a credible person.

[SEAL.]

WILLIAM H. SISSON, *Notary Public*.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, *County of Sullivan*, ss:

In the matter of Sarah Jordan.

On this 4th day of December, A. D. 1897, personally appeared before me, a notary public in and for the aforesaid county, duly authorized to administer oaths, Arvin S. Bartholomew, aged 75 years, a resident of Plainfield, in the county of Sullivan and State of New Hampshire, whose post-office address is Plainfield, N. H., well known to be reputable and entitled to credit, and who, being duly sworn, declared in relation to aforesaid case as follows:

Knew Sarah Jordan prior to her marriage to Horace Jordan in 1849; knew of her marriage to said Horace Jordan, of his enlisting, and of the report that was sent that he was missing in 1863; knew of her marriage to Benjamin Jordan in 1866, and know that she lived with said Benjamin Jordan as his wife from the time of said marriage in 1866 up to the time of his death in 1895; that there was born to Sarah

Jordan as the result of the first marriage five children, and as a result of the second marriage four children; that she is aged and not able to earn a support, and is dependent and has been helped by the county of Sullivan at different times since the death of Benjamin Jordan.

I further declare that I have no interest in said case and am not concerned in its prosecution.

ARVIN S. BARTHOLOMEW.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, *County of Sullivan, ss:*

Sworn to and subscribed before me this day by the above-named affiant; and I certify that I read said affidavit to said affiant and acquainted him with its contents before he executed the same; that said affiant is personally known to me, and that he is a credible person.

[SEAL.]

WILLIAM H. SISSON, *Notary Public.*

Under a law recently enacted seven years' absence of a soldier, without anything being heard from him, is prima facie evidence of death, and is so recognized in the matter of granting pensions, so that we are justified in assuming that claimant's first husband is dead. That being admitted, it seems but just that this old and destitute woman, who is now a charge upon the county, should be placed on the pension roll at the rate of \$12 per month.

Your committee recommend the passage of the bill.

The bill is therefore reported back with the recommendation that it pass.



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